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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of early warning of potential litigation, within an entity, comprising:

gathering data from internal and external sources;

reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

prioritizing potential litigation issues;

consulting with outside counsel to obtain specialized assistance in selected issues;

determining whether an issue justifies an alert;

issuing an alert if justified and monitoring any action;

if an alert is not justified, determining whether said issue justifies a report;

issuing an report and tracking its issuance; and

if litigation on an issue occurs, proceeding in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessments within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said report is an Emerging

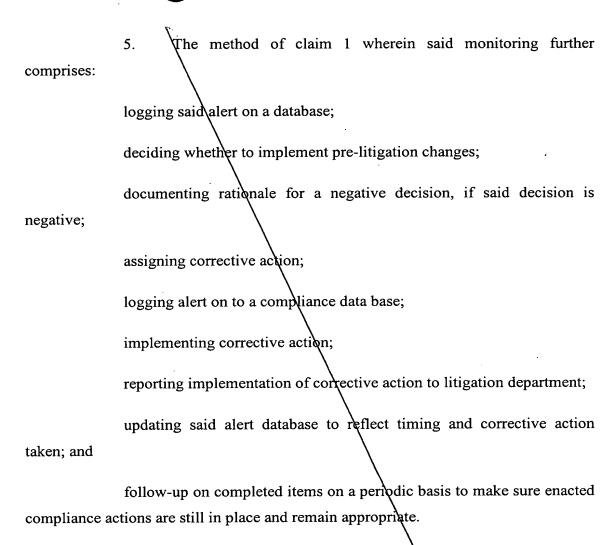
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined time frame is sixty days.

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Issue Report.

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15 6. The method of claim 1 further comprises:

sending a copy of said alert to organizations outside of said entity.

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7. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for an early warning of litigation, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to gather data from internal and external sources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist a user in reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to prioritize said potential litigation resues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to communicate with and consult with outside counsel computer system to obtain specialized assistance in selected issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide criteria for user to determine whether an issue justifies an alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue an alert if found justified and monitoring any action from said system alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist user to determine whether said issue justifies a report if an alert is not justified;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue a report and tracking its issuance; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor and support in a traditional litigation manner, including risk

assessment within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution if litigation on said issue occurs.

the article of manufacture of claim 5 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.

is sixty days.

8. The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

9. The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein said time frame

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10. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for an early warning of litigation said computer program product having:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to gather data from internal and external sources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist a user in reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to prioritize said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to communicate with and consult with outside counsel computer system to obtain specialized assistance in selected issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide criteria for user to determine whether an issue justifies an alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issuing said alert if found justified and monitoring any action from said alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist user to determine whether said issue justifies a report if said alert is not justified;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue a report if justified and tracking its issuance; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor and support in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessment within a predetermined period and early dispute resolution if litigation on said issue occurs.

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- 11. Computer program product of claim 9 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.
- 12. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

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report;



13. In a computer network that includes (i) a plurality of servers for accessing a plurality of network sites containing various types of content, which can be viewed and listened to as appropriate, and downloaded when desired, and that includes (ii) a plurality of client systems connected to a server for purposes of browsing the network sites, a method of early warning of potential litigation, comprising:

gathering data from internal and external sources;

reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

prioritizing potential litigation issues;

consulting with outside counsel to obtain specialized assistance in selected issues;

determining whether an issue justifies an alert;

issuing said alert if justified and monitoring any action;

if an alert is not justified, determining whether said issue justifies a

issuing a report and tracking its issuance; and

if litigation on an issue occurs, proceeding in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessments within a predetermined period and early dispute resolution.

- 14. The network of claim 12 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System alert.
- 15. The network of claim 12 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

16. The network of claim 12 wherein said predetermined time period is sixty (60) days.

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